

The Committee also understands the importance of working closely with conservation districts. With the growing interest in water monitoring the Committee works with conservation districts in creating their own baseline water monitoring program that is shaped to the needs of the individual conservation district. The Program provides technical support, training, financial help, and a place to store data collected. The monitoring data is entered into the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's online database.

The Coal Bed Methane Protection Act Committee is proud to serve Montana.

### Coal Bed Methane Protection Act Committee Members:

- Big Horn Conservation District
- Carbon Conservation District
- Custer County Conservation District
- Powder River Conservation District
- Rosebud Conservation District
- Treasure County Conservation District
- Wibaux Conservation District

### Coal Bed Methane Protection Act Technical Advisory Group:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service:  
Soils
- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology:  
Hydrogeology
- Department of Natural Resources:  
Land Agreements

### **Coal Bed Methane Protection Act**

*Promoting our way of life.*

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Groundwater Information Center Website:

<http://mbmgwic.mtech.edu>



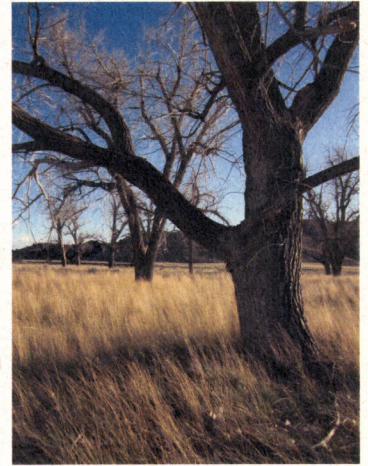


# COAL BED METHANE PROTECTION ACT

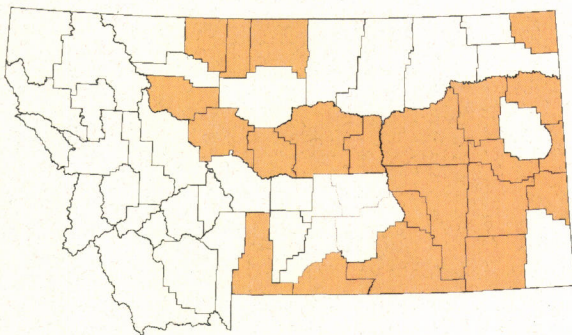
## Providing water monitoring in southeastern Montana

The Coal Bed Methane Protection Act was implemented in 2001 to provide landowners and water right holders compensation for impacts due to coal bed methane production.

The Coal Bed Methane Protection Act Committee is made up of southeastern Montana conservation districts. This group administers the compensation program. The Committee has a full time coordinator that provides information to conservation districts about coal bed methane and about the Coal Bed Methane Protection Program, and furnishes technical support. The Program coordinator also conducts baseline water monitoring in Big Horn, Rosebud, and in Powder River Conservation Districts. The Program coordinator works with other agencies and the local population to understand and monitor areas of priority.



Collecting baseline water quality is a vital component to the Committee because it aids the committee when reviewing coal bed methane compensation claims. A baseline is also important to the landowners and water right holders so that they understand the quality and quantity of their natural resource and so that they may put it into a sustainable, beneficial use. The data collected for the Program is housed in the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's Ground Water Information Center database. This database provides the Program a consistent, publicly available place to store our data.



A map of participating conservation districts.

### Coal Bed Methane Production In Montana:

- ~ 300 wells in production
- In 2012 (Jan.-Nov.) 3 billion cubic feet of coal bed methane produced.
- In 2012 (Jan.-Nov.) over 517 million gallons of water was extracted with coal bed methane.